

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2015 - Approved

Present

Elena Softley– Chairman
 Simon Oliver
 Rachel Whitehead
 Anne-Marie Ferrett
 Alan Revell
 Cllr Hudspeth
 Cllr Bishop
 Julia Sharpe - Clerk

Members of the Public – Three

No.	Item	Minutes	Action
76/15	Apologies	Michael Green – Vice Chairman	
77/15	Questions from the Public	A member of the public raised concern regarding the proposed development at 70 Akeman Street and the likelihood of traffic problems during construction work. It was agreed that appropriate representation will be made to the Planning Department once a full planning application for the adjoining site is made.	JS
78/15	Register of Interests	Methodist Chapel – pre-school – Anne-Marie Ferrett. Parking in Knott Oaks – Anne-Marie Ferrett	
79/15	To consider the pre-schools position regarding the purchase of Methodist Chapel	Vicky Rushton and Charlie Birkett attended the meeting and outlined the work to date to apply for grants to purchase the building. They said that after much consideration they had agreed that their priority must be in saving the pre-school and that they were not in a position to take the purchase of the building forward. It was agreed that they would conduct a survey of the village to establish whether or not there is sufficient interest to purchase the building. The Parish Council agreed to provide support and become pro-active in the survey process.	
80/15	Minutes of the last meetings	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting and the village walk held on Wednesday 12 th August were read and signed as correct.	
81/15	Clerks report and progress on actions	Combe Feast Update – it was agreed to return of ground deposit and to write thanking Mr Hebborn for his efforts to provide a better fair this year. Dates for the feast next year will be Sunday 14 th – Tuesday 16 th August 2016. Request to use green for wedding marquee – request declined. Application for resilience funding - none	JS JS
82/15	Report from County Councillor	In addition to his monthly report Cllr Hudspeth reported that a submission to Government of an expression of interest by public bodies in Oxfordshire that asks for greater local control over £4bn of funding for transport, skills training and health services had been made. He reported that after the prime minister announced that Britain would need to accept more refugees from Syria, the county council has been talking to partner agencies to see what they can do together. Public bodies responsible for health, housing, adult and children’s social care and education, along with the voluntary sector, will all have to do their bit. He said that the children’s services team is in the process of making sure they	

		<p>can respond to more arriving in the county. He concluded by saying that it is both our legal and moral duty to make sure that refugee children are looked after and kept safe, and the county council will always meet those duties. Currently there are around 50 unaccompanied asylum seeker children – more than double the number we had last year in the County.</p> <p>The Chairman raised concern and passed on frustrations about delays caused by the current road works. Cllr Hudspeth replied that it was not possible to work through the night as it is a residential area and that it was a high priority to keep the road open. He urged people to use an alternative route, stagger their journey times or use the train where possible.</p>																									
83/15	Report from District Councillor	<p>Cllr Richard Bishop reported that the WODC Local Plan has been accepted in principle subject to further consultation by the Inspector. An application for 70 houses in Tackley has been refused, an application for 29 houses in Freeland has been deferred and the application for 1,200 houses in Woodstock is subject to a site visit. He said that both of the District Councillors had made strong representations to the planning officers regarding the application for change of use for the Methodist Chapel to a dwelling to give the village the opportunity to raise funds to purchase the property so that it could continue to serve families in Combe and surrounding villages as a pre-school. The application has been refused. OCC are to suspend their grant for green waste collections from next April. WODC must now agree on their strategy and either cease the collection or charge households wishing to join the scheme.</p>																									
84/15	Planning Applications	<p>Applications – None</p> <p>Decisions –</p> <p>Mayfield Cottage, West End – erection of garage and log store – approved</p> <p>Northgate, 70 Akeman Street – demolition of existing house and erection of new - approved</p> <p>Lingerwood, West End – demolition of garage and erection of detached annex – approved</p> <p>Combe Methodist Chapel – change of use – refused</p>																									
85/15	To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received	<p>Payments</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>WODC – Grass Cutting</td> <td>£523.93</td> <td>VAT</td> <td>£87.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Sharpe – Clerks Wages</td> <td>£196</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Viking – paper & ink cartridges</td> <td>£100.73</td> <td></td> <td>£16.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RoSPA –</td> <td>£114</td> <td></td> <td>£19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Play park inspections</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Received –</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Combe Feast Rental</td> <td>£85</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	WODC – Grass Cutting	£523.93	VAT	£87.32	J Sharpe – Clerks Wages	£196			Viking – paper & ink cartridges	£100.73		£16.79	RoSPA –	£114		£19	Play park inspections				Combe Feast Rental	£85			
WODC – Grass Cutting	£523.93	VAT	£87.32																								
J Sharpe – Clerks Wages	£196																										
Viking – paper & ink cartridges	£100.73		£16.79																								
RoSPA –	£114		£19																								
Play park inspections																											
Combe Feast Rental	£85																										
86/15	Play Park update	<p>The annual RoSPA inspection of the play park identified several areas of concern requiring remedial work. Clerk to liaise with Paul Merry.</p> <p>Simon Oliver agreed to look at the gate to ensure that the closure mechanism complies with requirements.</p> <p>As people are still allowing their dogs in the designated play park area which is strictly a no dog area item to be placed in the Courier urging owners of dogs to secure their dogs to the dog posts to keep them away from the area. Following discussion regarding fencing the area it was agreed to defer a decision until a later date.</p> <p>Simon Oliver reported that a working party had repaired the</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>SO</p> <p>JS</p>																								

		skate bowl and that it was fit for use. He assured the meeting that it did not need another RoSPA inspection and that it is covered by the VH&RG insurance.	
87/15	To consider the Parish Council's response to proposed new public rights of way	The Chairman proposed and Rachel Whitehead seconded a motion to support Stonesfield Parish Council's the application on the basis of the information provided to make the footpath from Brook Lane, along the Evenlode Valley to the bridge over the river Evenlode near Lower Westfield Farm and the footpath from Stonesfield to Combe Road along the valley known as Baggs Bottom to Brook Lane near Stonesfield Ford public rights of way. A vote was taken and all present were in favour.	JS
88/15	To consider proposal to extend the conservation area	The Chairman outlined a proposal to request an extension of the current conservation area to include West Close Farm, Horns Close, Foxhole Farm, Whittons and the Manor Barns. It was agreed to that the Chairman would liaise with West Oxfordshire District Council.	JS
89/15	To discuss parking issues in Knott Oaks	Concern regarding parking and apparently abandoned vehicles in Knott Oaks was discussed. It was agreed to liaise with Cottsway to identify land owned by them and land designated as highway and then to take action with the appropriate authority.	JS
90/15	Allocation of tasks identified on the Village Walk	The clerk reported that all WODC and OCC related tasks have been reported and many already dealt with. Action required for the outstanding tasks was agreed and tasks allocated.	AMF/ JS
91/15	To discuss the Parish Council's letter of support for Combe Pre-School's funding application	In view of item 79/15 above this item was withdrawn.	
92/15	To consider the Parish Council's response to OCC's consultation on the future of household waste recycling centres	The Parish Council noted the plan and raised concern of the likelihood of an increase in the incidents of fly-tipping and that it was not beneficial to remove facilities. Alan Revell agreed to respond to the on-line questionnaire.	AR
93/15	To consider the Parish Council's response to WODC's gambling policy review	The Parish Councillor's noted the plan and decided not to comment.	
94/15	To consider the Parish Council's response to WODC's New West Oxfordshire Design Guide	The Parish Councillor's noted the plan and decided not to comment.	
95/15	To consider the Parish Council's response to the OCC Mineral and Waste Local Plan	The Parish Councillor's noted the plan and decided not to comment.	
96/15	Urgent Correspondence	ORCC AGM, Thursday 1 st October – 12 -1pm Kirtlington Village Hall – Red Bag Age UK – Autumn 2015 Partnership meetings – Red Bag	
97/15	Next Meeting	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 14 th October at 7.30 in the Reading Room, Combe	

